

we feel as if we are one family together today.

As chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Federal Emergency Management Agency—FEMA—I pledge the full support of the committee to the relief effort. I would like to read the text of a letter that my committee sent to the President today:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to commend you and the Administration for the Federal Government's response to the horrific terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon. In particular, we are encouraged and impressed by the organization and coordination at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

We and our staff stand ready to assist you in your efforts in any way, including making any immediate changes to statutes or program funding levels within the Committee's jurisdiction that are necessary to implement measures to save lives and restore safety and order as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your resolve and determination.

Sincerely, Members of the Committee of Environment and Public Works.

Of the thousands of people working in the World Trade Center complex, 2,600 are Federal employees, working for a variety of Federal agencies. The General Services Administration is working diligently to find temporary office space so that these employees may get back to work as soon as possible.

America picks up and goes on. We are shaken but we are not bowed. We are also comforted by the stories of great heroism that come flooding out of this tragedy, the stories of people going back for friends, office workers carrying disabled colleagues down 80 flights of stairs, firefighters and police rushing up the stricken towers in their frantic effort to save lives. Still today, we are watching rescue workers who have not slept in 2 days, continuing to dig through the rubble, exposing themselves to great hazards, running on adrenaline from the news that three people were just found alive today.

As more information comes to light, we are seeing a picture emerge of another great act of heroism—the crashing of United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. From what we can glean from phone calls from passengers on that flight, realizing that the hijackers planned to crash their plane and learning that two hijacked planes had just crashed into the World Trade Center, passengers decided to take action. We can only surmise from their last words to family members that several passengers confronted the hijackers and the plane was prevented from completing its mission. It is unlikely that we will know for sure what target the hijackers had in mind, but we can be fairly certain that brave passengers saved the lives of many hundreds or even thousands of people, and maybe even our own lives. I believe that all of America should be deeply grateful to

them and their courage in the face of death.

America has closed ranks behind its President and its people. I am also very pleased that so many of our allies have closed ranks behind us. Yesterday, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization—NATO—for the first time in its 52-year history, invoked collective defense arrangements under Article 5 of its Charter that states that an attack upon one member of the alliance is viewed as an attack upon all. This reiteration of NATO solidarity is unprecedented and will be most helpful in formulating a unified response. Condolences and offers of assistance have poured in from all regions of the world, giving us heart as we focus on the task ahead of us.

Fighting terrorism is an exceedingly difficult task. It will take applying ourselves in a way we have never done before. Ferreting out terrorists and destroying their networks will be long and arduous work. It will require a concerted international effort and potentially great patience. We will need the strong cooperation of our allies, and we will need to reach out to nations that are not our traditional allies. Fighting terrorism is usually a frustrating task, as targets are elusive and the means of terror difficult to control. We still hope to learn a great deal more about the perpetrators of this tragedy and uncover those who helped them. I expect that we will take firm action in retaliation. But this may take time, and it must be done in a manner that will not unnecessarily provoke reprisals or generate additional acts of terrorism. I am confident that American resolve will remain firm no matter how long or how difficult this fight.

In closing, I would like to recognize the contributions to the relief effort from my small State of Vermont. The Vermont Air Guard has already flown many hours of additional missions as part of the effort to maintain security over American airspace. Vermont doctors, nurses, firefighters, and rescue workers have volunteered in great numbers to help. All over the State, people have lined up to give blood. True to their history, Vermonters are quick to offer their help.

I see this strength replicated all across America. This makes me, and all Americans, proud.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Ms. STABENOW. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume con-

sideration of H.R. 2500, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2500) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Dorgan amendment No. 1542, to increase funds for the trade enforcement and trade compliance activities of the International Trade Administration and to reduce funds for TV Marti.

Dorgan amendment No. 1543, to prohibit the sale of disaster loans authorized under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I am awaiting the attendance of the Senator from New Hampshire who is in an important conference at the moment. Let me bring my colleagues up to speed. We have tried our best, working out certain amendments all yesterday and earlier this morning—those that would be accepted, those that would be included in the managers' amendment, and those that would still be pending. On both sides we are trying to assemble the determinant list of pending amendments. When we do, we will ask unanimous consent and see if we can facilitate the disposition of this bill today, and no later than tomorrow. We will see what best can be done.

Pending that, let me say a word about the efforts of your subcommittee of Commerce, Justice, State in the field of counterterrorism. For example, in early May, your subcommittee, under the leadership of Senator JUDD GREGG of New Hampshire, chairman at that time, held 3 days of comprehensive hearings of which I now hold a transcript.

On May 8, we had a hearing with Department of the Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill; Department of Defense Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz; Secretary of State Colin Powell; and Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta.

That afternoon, we had a hearing with FEMA Director Joseph Allbaugh; National Security Administrator John A. Gordon; and Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Richard A. Meserve.

On May 9, at that hearing, we had Attorney General John Ashcroft; Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson; Commerce Secretary, Don Evans; and in the afternoon, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony Principi; Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman; and Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton.

On May 10, we had the joint task force civil support commander, Gen. Bruce Lawlor; the American Red Cross president and chief executive officer, Dr. Bernadine Healy; a panel of State and local representatives from fire, police, public health, and emergency